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The announced scientific program consisted of a lecture on "Organization of Pediastrum Colony" by Professor R. A. Harper. The lecture was illustrated with lantern slides.

Meeting adjourned.

B. O. DODGE,
Secretary

APRIL 24, 1912

The meeting of April 24, 1912, was held in the Laboratory of the New York Botanical Garden at 3:15 P.M., Dr. W. A. Murrill presiding. Fifteen persons were present.

The announced scientific program consisted of a paper on "Plant Hairs," by Dr. William Mansfield.

The speaker exhibited a number of figures representing various types of plant hairs and showed how the four main types, simple, compound, septate and non-septate, could be made the basis of a key by which many species of plants could be identified.

Meeting adjourned.

B. O. DODGE,
Secretary

MAY 14, 1912

The meeting was held in the American Museum of Natural History at 8:15 P.M. President Burgess presided. Nine persons were present.

The scientific program consisted of an illustrated lecture on "Dr. Charles H. Shaw's Botanical Studies in the Selkirks," by Miss Caroline S. Romer.

Meeting adjourned.

B. O. DODGE,
Secretary

NEWS ITEMS

At a recent meeting of the New York College of Pharmacy the treasurer, Mr. C. O. Bigelow, introduced an amendment to the by-laws, at the request of Dean Rusby, providing for the appointment of an associate dean, in order that the dean might be

relieved of a great deal of minor detail work, which at present devolves upon him. In some strange way the daily press reported this as a resignation by Dr. Rusby of the dean's office, and this report has been widely copied in other periodicals. It is here worthy of note, that after several years' effort on the part of the authorities of the College of Pharmacy, they have at last succeeded in establishing, in addition to the two year course, designed to prepare students for the work of the retail pharmacy, an advanced course, consisting of four years' work, for which the degree of Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy will be conferred by Columbia University. Two years of additional work will lead to the degree of Doctor of Pharmacy, which places the degree on the same professional footing as that of M.D. This arrangement has been approved by the Education Department of the State of New York, and will hereafter constitute the state requirements for these degrees.

William Robertson Smith, since 1854 superintendent of the National Botanic Garden at Washington, D. C., died on July 7th. He was born at Athelstone Falls, Scotland, March 21, 1828, and came to this country from the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, in 1853. Ever since he has been prominently identified with the National Botanic Garden, which holds a unique position among botanic gardens in this country. Mr. Smith possessed what is probably the finest collection of Burnsiana extant.

Prof. F. E. Lloyd until recently professor of botany at the Alabama Polytechnic Institute has been appointed professor of botany at McGill University, Montreal. Prof. Lloyd, who is now carrying on research work at the Carnegie Institution at Tucson, will begin work at his new post about September 1st.

An interesting acquisition to American botanical libraries is the recent purchase by the New York Botanical Garden of a copy of "Jacquin's *Selectarum Stirpium Historia Iconibus Pictis*." This, said to be the most valuable single volume in modern botanical literature, contains 264 colored plates, and descriptions of many tropical american plants. Only 12 or at least not more than 18 copies of this work were ever printed.

The edition which has been acquired by the New York garden was issued about 1780 or 1781. Only one other copy is known in America, at the Library of Congress at Washington.

Dr. E. de Wildman, for many years connected with the botanic garden at Brussels, and well known for his studies on economic botany and the flora of Tropical Africa, has been appointed director of the garden.

We learn from the *Sun* that on the 24th of July, Prof. J. A. Paine died at Tarrytown, N. Y., after several years of rather poor health. He was born in Newark, N. J., January 14, 1840. Prof. Paine specialized in botany and biology and was employed by the Board of Regents of the State of New York in connection with the flora of the State in 1862-67.

In 1867-69 he was professor of natural science in the Robert College (Congregational) in Constantinople, Turkey, and during 1870-71 professor of natural history and German in the Lake Forest University in Illinois.

During 1871-72 he was the editor of the *Independent* in New York and in 1872-74 he went with the first expedition of the Palestine exploration society east of the Jordan and Red Sea in the capacity of archeologist. One of his best known botanical works was a "Catalogue of Plants found in Oneida County and vicinity," printed in 1865.

On Thursday evening, August first, twelve botanists were the guests of Dr. N. L. Britton at a dinner given in honor of Dr. Chas. E. Bessey. After a walk through the grounds and conservatories of the New York Botanical Garden the party dined at L'Hermitage, where congratulatory speeches were made by several of the company after Dr. Bessey's speech to the toast "Nestor of American Botany."

The advantages of originally publishing such items in a magazine devoted solely to the science of botany, and also the protection afforded American botanists from prematurely or incorrectly published press dispatches, are features which, it is hoped, will be found sufficiently attractive to ensure hearty coöperation.